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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 001914

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, MAY 7: DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ;  
ARAB LEAGUE; ARAB MEDIA

[11.](#) SUMMARY: A strong call for the end of the Arab League appears on the commentary pages, citing the League's repeated failures to solve Arab problems or maintain Arab unity, most prominently during the Iraq crisis. Arab satellite news channels are attacked for the negative tone of their coverage of Iraq even after liberation, with one writer stating, "Iraqis do not need others to sow sedition among them." Another writer warns that a democratic Iraq will lead some neighboring states to attempt to undermine any new Iraqi government. A conservative commentator portrays the presence of US troops in Iraq as a reflection of an "American-Zionist ideology" of "occupation." END SUMMARY.

[12.](#) News Stories: Al-Qabas reports on its front page that "a responsible Kuwaiti parliamentary source" says that the U.S. has requested Kuwait drop its claims for reparations from Iraq dating from the 1990-91 Gulf War.

Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled announced that a Kuwaiti team left for Iraq on May 6 to search for Kuwaiti POWs, Al-Qabas reports on its May 7 front page.

Al-Qabas reports that Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Al-Ayyar announced that a fund-raising campaign for Iraq would be launched in the near future.

Editorials:

[13.](#) "The Occupation"  
Islamist MP Abdelmohsen Jamal wrote in independent Al-Qabas (5/05): "It seems that Sharon was successful in convincing the US that the Arabs can only be dominated if their lands are occupied one after another. Occupation has become an American-Zionist ideology. and threatens every country that does not comply with the American-Zionist demands."

[14.](#) "Iraq and the Neighboring Countries"  
MP Saleh Ashour wrote in independent Al-Watan (5/05): "There are many indications that the new Iraq will be a democratic country where freedom of expression and pluralism will be practiced. This new model of Iraq will undoubtedly disturb the countries neighboring Iraq. Therefore, those countries will attempt to sabotage this regime."

[15.](#) "A New Reading"  
Dr. Yasser Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-A'am (5/06): "During his visit to Baghdad, the prophet of democracy to our region, Donald Rumsfeld, asked Iraqis who admire the Islamic regime in Iran to leave Iraq and go to Iran. We don't know if he also advised the Iraqis who admire the American system to leave for the US, but we are certain that the attempt to deport Iraqi oppositionists will not be accepted by the Iraqi people. It seems that the arrogance of the Americans is based on emotion not rationality."

[16.](#) "The Arab League and Its Continued Failure"  
Mohammad Al-Saddiqi wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (5/06): "It seems that the Arab League is facing a financial problem because Kuwait and the UAE have abstained from paying their share in the Arab League. In confronting this political and financial dilemma, we should seriously think of the existence and the need for the Arab League in solving the Arab countries problems. The Arab League has proven that it is incapable of achieving Arab unity, leading us to think seriously about closing this entity and looking for other means."

[17.](#) "You are Not the Guardians of the Iraqi People"  
Laila Al-Othman wrote in independent Al-Qabas (5/07): "Why do Arab satellite television channels continue agitation against the freedom of Iraqis? Why do they hate to see the Iraqis enjoying the taste of freedom? . Arab satellite channels must realize that the years of oppression against the Iraqis have taught them ways to defend their existence and to defend their country. Iraqis do not need others to

sow sedition among them. Leave the Iraqi people alone, and do not [attempt to] be their guardians. Very soon you will witness a new Iraq."

JONES